

Whereas a lower-than-expected yield of one of the components of this season's influenza vaccine has caused the distribution of the vaccine to be delayed;

Whereas the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, and the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are working closely with vaccine manufacturers to facilitate the availability of a safe and effective influenza vaccine for this influenza season;

Whereas temporary shortages of the influenza vaccine early in this influenza season may require decisions to be made regarding how to prioritize the use of the available vaccine;

Whereas the vaccine available early in this influenza season should be used to maximize the protection of people at a high risk of developing complications from an influenza infection;

Whereas the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that the groups of people at a high

(1) people who are 65 and older;

(2) residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities that house people who have chronic medical conditions;

(3) people who have chronic disorders of the pulmonary or cardiovascular systems, including asthma;

(4) people who have had required medical follow up or hospitalization during the past year because of chronic metabolic disease, kidney dysfunction, blood disorders, or immunosuppression;

(5) children and teenagers who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy; and

(6) women who will be in the second or third trimester of pregnancy during the influenza season;

Whereas all influenza vaccine used in the United States is produced in the private sector, and 90 percent of that vaccine is distributed by private-sector distributors for use by health care providers;

Whereas reports have indicated that certain distributors of the influenza vaccine are taking advantage of the influenza vaccine shortage by raising their prices by as much as 500 percent;

Whereas distributors are first supplying those buyers willing to pay the highest price for the influenza vaccine, even when those buyers were the last to order;

Whereas, for example, although the Director of the California Department of Health Services contracted with a distributor in February to purchase influenza vaccine at a cost of \$17.99 per vial and has received only one third of the order, the Director of the Maine Division of Disease Control contracted with that same distributor in June and July to purchase influenza vaccine at a cost of \$39.00 per vial and received both shipments within two months; and

Whereas distributors are in a unique position to make vaccines available first to facilities serving people at a high risk of developing complications from an influenza infection, such as nursing homes, hospitals, and doctors offices: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the private-sector distributors of the influenza vaccine should make all reasonable efforts to ensure that, during any shortage of the influenza vaccine, priority is given to distributing the available vaccine to those groups of people identified by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as being at a high risk of developing complications from an influenza infection.

TRIBUTE TO SIDNEY YATES

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2000

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, on October 5, our country lost a great patriot, Sid Yates. Sid was my very dear friend, and a beloved federal representative, who preserved and protected our country's finest cultural resources and historical landmarks.

For nearly a half of a century, Sid served in the House of Representatives. I was fortunate enough to have served with him for more than 25 years. He was a true gentleman and distinguished politician who brought honor and dignity to the U.S. House of Representatives.

It was a very sad day when Sid announced he would not run for reelection. I know the House of Representatives meant a great deal to him, and it was very hard for Sid to leave a place that he loved. Personally, I missed him greatly. It always made my day when he returned to Capitol Hill for a visit. I was saddened by his passing and he will be greatly missed by those of us who worked beside him, and the nation as a whole.

Many people remember Sid as a tremendous advocate of the arts, but I will always remember him as a master of the art of politics. Sid loved serving as a deputy in the Democratic Whip organization. So much so that for well over twenty years, Sid served as a deputy whip, while championing the causes of the Democratic Party.

Not only was Sid a great politician, but he was also a genuine and caring person. He worked hard behind the scenes to help individual members shepherd their projects through the legislative process, but he was always certain to give the credit to others. Although a giant in the House, Sid would always make it a point to take of the little things without any kind of fanfare. For instance, every Thursday, after our Democratic Whip meetings, Sid would always make sure to bring back muffins or danish to his staff. Although in the grand scheme of things this small token of thoughtfulness was probably lost on most Members, I believe it spoke volumes on the kind of person Sid Yates was.

While I will always remember Sid as a wonderful and caring person, I can't overlook how hard he worked to make our country a beautiful and cultural place to live. As Chairman of the coveted Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, he fought tirelessly to protect free expression of the arts, and to preserve funding for national parks, historical landmarks, and national seashores. He was a true believer in the benefits of the arts and historical landmarks.

My hometown of Boston had benefited greatly from his generosity and dedication to preserving historical landmarks. Over the years, Sid supported vital federal funding for Boston's Freedom Trail, a wonderful walking tour through the City of Boston that provides a historical review of the many famous Revolutionary War sites including the African Meeting House, Dorchester Heights, and the Old South Meeting House.

Thanks to Sid's work with the Freedom Trail, tourists can visit the famed Old North Church, where Paul Revere hung two lanterns warning citizens of Boston that the British

were coming by sea; or Faneuil Hall, where colonists met to protect British rule; and many other revolutionary war sites.

As an appropriations committee cardinal, Sid was also helpful in providing funds to preserve Boston's 31 harbor islands, which are rich with historical and geological treasures. Because of Sid's support, visitors will soon be able to take a ferry to many of these remarkable islands, which have been inaccessible for years. Sid's commitment to the preservation of the harbor islands will provide plenty of recreational opportunities for residents and visitors to Boston. The City of Boston is a better place to visit thanks to the kindness and wisdom of Sid Yates.

Just as the lanterns at Old North Church shone brightly to guide the patriots in their fight for independence, Sid Yates' commitment and dedication to the arts and humanities was a guiding light for all Americans. While his light has faded, his legacy will endure because of his devotion to preserving our country's historical landmarks and cultural resources. Just like Paul Revere, Sid Yates was a great patriot.

IN RECOGNITION OF SUE NICHOLS

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2000

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the tireless dedication of Mrs. Sue Nichols to the children of our community. Mrs. Nichols was born and raised in Miami-Dade County where she is a teacher at St. Thomas Episcopal Parish School. She has now been teaching kindergarten for 25 years.

Recently, Mrs. Nichols wrote an article entitled "Flowers of Tomorrow Are Seeds of Today", which I believe is an accurate representation of her kind and exuberant demeanor. This outlook is the product of a healthy life philosophy which was passed on to her by her grandmother, Viola Erhart. It is quite simple and yet at the same time incredibly profound. At its core is the saying: "May each person I see today go happier for it on his way". She lives by this motto every day as a wife, friend and teacher.

Mrs. Nichols' greatest service to our community lies in her devotion as a teacher to the spreading of this wonderful vision among her students. She understands that while the young mind is fragile, it is at the same time remarkably open. By recognizing our children as the flowers of tomorrow and instilling within them her grandmother's message of kindness, Sue is actively contributing to the development of these same values among her students.

Mrs. Nichols deserves the greatest praise both from the families of these young boys and girls, and from all those whose lives she will touch. Her efforts are an invaluable investment in our community's future and we are all truly blessed to have her in the classroom.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding Mrs. Sue Nichols for her outstanding service to the youth of our community.